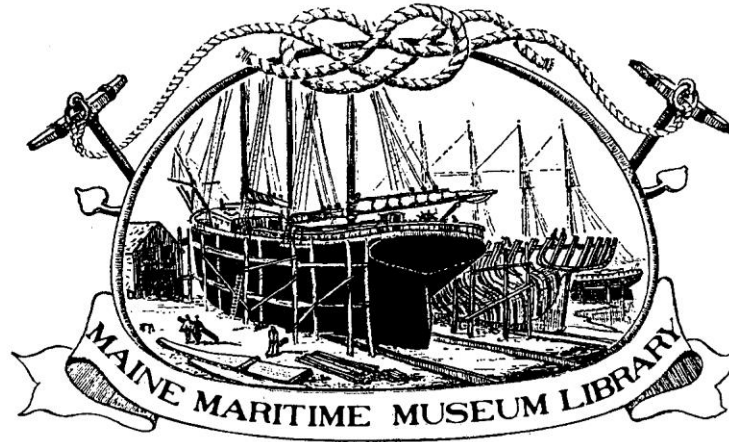


Maine Maritime Museum Library
243 Washington Street
Bath, Maine 04530-1638
(207) 443-1316, ext. 328, 336



**Inventory for
Manuscript Collection
MS – 15**

John A. Lord Papers

**1897-1945
Bulk: 1917-1925**

by
Elisabeth Meier
March 2018

5 boxes, 1 oversize folder
2 linear feet
Accession no. 69.3466.1, .2, .11, .13, .14, .17 and 69.3401-3

Copyright Restrictions

The material described herein is the physical property of the Maine Maritime Museum Library. **Literary rights, including copyright, belong to the authors of the various items, or to their legal representatives, or to Maine Maritime Museum.** For further information, consult the library staff.

The copyright law of the United States (Title 17, United States Code) governs the making of photocopies or other reproductions of copyrighted materials.

Under certain conditions specified in the law, libraries and archives are authorized to furnish a photocopy or other reproduction. One of these specified conditions is that the photocopy or reproduction is not to be *“used for any purpose other than private study, scholarship or research.”* If a user later uses a photocopy or reproduction for purposes in excess of “fair use,” that user may be liable for copyright infringement.

This institution reserves the right to refuse to accept a copying order if fulfillment of the order is judged to be in violation of copyright law.

It is the user’s responsibility to understand the copyright law concerning the use of the historical documents contained in this library.

Copyright © 2018 by Maine Maritime Museum

No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted, in any form, or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording, or otherwise, without the prior permission of the Maine Maritime Museum Library.

Abstract

Lord, John A. (John Abel), 1872-1945

Papers, 1897-1945

Bulk dates: 1917-1925

5 boxes and 1 oversize folder.

Draftsman, carpenter, and officer in the US Navy Construction Corps

This collection contains official and personal material from John A. Lord's career as a US Navy carpenter and officer. The bulk of the collection is related to his time at the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard and Bath Iron Works; vessels covered in detail include the *USS Boxer*, 75' patrol boats and 35' picket boats for the US Coast Guard, and the *USS Constitution*. A sizeable set of correspondence, pamphlets, and specifications deals with general operations of the Navy's Construction Corps and the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard. There are a few family documents.

Part museum purchase; part gift of James M. Moulton.

MS-015. Accession #69.3466.1, .2, .11, .13, .14, .17 and #69.3401-3.

Finding aid (folder level control) in repository.

Added entries—persons:

Lord, John A. (John Abel), 1872-1945

Added entries—corporate bodies (including vessels):

Aaron Ward (Destroyer : DD-132)

Bath Iron Works

Boxer (Ship, training)

Constitution (Frigate)

Evans (Destroyer : DD-78)

Portsmouth Naval Shipyard (U.S.)

Wickes (Destroyer : DD-75)

United States. Coast Guard

United States. Navy. Construction Corps

United States. Navy—Boats

United States. Navy—Builders

United States. Navy—Examinations

United States. Navy—Promotions

United States. Navy—Uniforms

United States. Navy—Warrant Officers

Added entries—key terms:

Destroyers (warships)

Naval education

Navy-yards and naval stations

Shipbuilding

Shipbuilding contracts

World War, 1914-1918

Acquisition

Maine Maritime Museum purchased this collection from the auction of the estate of Mary Lee (Curtis) Lord, John A. Lord's widow, in 1969. It was part of a larger group of mementos, books, photos, unrelated manuscripts, and other material that has been housed separately. The three oversize certificates (69.3401-3) were gifts of James M. Moulton that same year.

Restrictions

There are no restrictions on this collection.

Physical Condition

The documents are in good condition.

Processing Notes

Correspondence is filed chronologically within each folder. However, naval letters often included copies of earlier communications for reference. Where possible, these have been filed with the cover letter rather than by the original date of the enclosed memo.

Most blueprints were separated from this collection on accession. The few that remain here are filed alongside their cover letters. They are listed in Appendix B.

This collection arrived with two other manuscript groups: a late-eighteenth century ledger from Joseph Torrey (MS-239) and the mid-nineteenth century papers of David Curtis, John A. Lord's wife's grandfather (MS-163). Because the creator and content of each group is distinct, they have been processed separately.

Related Materials

PC-171 contains photographs of the reconstruction of the *USS Constitution*, which John A. Lord supervised from 1925 to 1931. The museum also has Lord's office nameplate (69.3466.9), purchased with MS-15.

Some blueprints and plans from this accession are stored in the plans room. These are listed in Appendix B.

The USS Constitution Museum holds another group of Lord's papers. The bulk of that collection relates to Lord's work on the *USS Constitution* between 1925 and 1931.

Historical Note

John Abel Lord was born in 1872 in Parker Head, Phippsburg, Maine, and grew up in Bath. His father, Samuel C. Lord, was a ship joiner, the third generation of the family in that profession. His mother was Arabelle M. (Blaisdell) Lord.

John Lord left school after eighth grade and began working in Bath's maritime industries. His early career included clerking for the Swanton, Jameson Co. ship chandlery, two years at the New England Shipbuilding Corporation, and a year as an assistant to Frederick Rideout, a draftsman and ship designer. In 1895, Lord was hired by Bath Iron Works, where he worked briefly as a shipfitter and, more extensively, in the mold loft.

Lord joined the Navy Construction Corps in 1898 as an Assistant Draftsman assigned to Bath Iron Works. In this capacity, he drew up plans for the wooden hulled training brig *USS*

Boxer. In 1902, having passed an examination for promotion to Carpenter, Lord was assigned to the Puget Sound Naval Shipyard and then the Asiatic Squadron, where he spent four years repairing ships in Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Cavite. Returning in 1906, he was assigned to Bath Iron Works, building scout cruisers, and the New York Naval Shipyard, building super dreadnoughts. He also had tours of duty at sea aboard the scout cruiser *USS Chester* and, at the beginning of World War I, in the US Mine Fleet.

In 1917, Lord was given an acting Lieutenant's commission and returned to Bath Iron Works as the Superintending Constructor for the Navy. That promotion, to Assisting Naval Constructor with the Rank of Lieutenant, was made permanent in 1921. Lord was reassigned to the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard in 1920, where he worked his way to the post of Shop Superintendent. In 1924, he departed for MIT to enroll in a yearlong course in naval engineering designed for Construction Corps officers. In 1925, at his own request, he was placed in charge of the restoration of the historic *USS Constitution* in Boston. Lord relied heavily on Bath's expertise in wooden shipbuilding for the project, hiring local ship carpenters and purchasing large saws and other tools from the recently-closed Percy & Small shipyard.

Lord retired from the Navy in 1932. He was briefly recalled during World War II to lead the Wood Construction Section and promoted to the rank of Commander. He spent his retirement in Bath, where his wife, Mary Lee (Curtis) Lord, and four children had lived for most of his career. Lord was elected mayor in 1932 and served as the curator of the Kennebec Marine Museum. He died after a brief illness in 1945.

Scope and Content Note

This collection contains official and personal material gathered by John A. Lord over the course of his career in the US Navy Construction Corps. It sheds light on Lord's own life, the place of practical shipbuilders in the Navy's officer corps in the early twentieth century, and the operation of naval shipyards and naval contractors during and after World War I.

Series I contains material related to John A. Lord's individual career and personal affairs. It includes official paperwork related to promotions, naval orders, salary and taxes, and federal insurance. Professional correspondence includes letters about Lord's own career decisions, finding wood and historical resources for the *USS Constitution*, and the efforts of Construction Corps officers to secure their acting commissions in the wake of World War I. The largest portion of this series comes from Lord's own efforts to advance his career. This consists of examinations that he took for promotion and material from a correspondence course designed to prepare Construction Corps officers for a program in naval engineering at MIT.

Personal papers in Series I include family letters, postcards and mementos, and speeches delivered by John A. Lord. There is also extensive correspondence about the Lord family genealogy, in which Lord took an active interest.

Series II contains material related to naval shipbuilding and shipyard operations. These were generated by the shipyards and projects where Lord worked, but may not relate directly to him. The first part of the series addresses general yard operations. The bulk of this material is from the Portsmouth Naval Shipyard, though there are some documents from Bath Iron Works and the Navy's Wood Construction Division. The second part has material from specific vessels, or classes of vessels, built in those yards. The latter include specifications for the training brig *USS Boxer*, destroyers built at Bath Iron Works during World War I, and wooden picket boats and patrol boats built for the US Coast Guard in the early 1920s.

Series III consists of printed material generated and circulated by the US Navy that is not specific to Lord's career. It includes general orders, changes to regulations and engineering instructions, bulletins from the Bureau of Construction and Repair, and similar items.

Box and Folder List

Series I: John A. Lord

<u>Professional Papers</u>		
Box	Folder	
1	1	John A. Lord, promotions and commissions, 1920-1921
	2	Orders, 1918-1923
	3	Correspondence: Construction Corps officers, changes in status, 1919-1923
	4	Construction Corps officers, from the US Navy, 1918-1921
	5	Assignment to Portsmouth, 1920-1923
	6	Assignment to and timber for the <i>USS Constitution</i> , 1925
	7	Uniforms, 1902-1924
	8	Trade catalogs, uniforms
	9	Commutation of rations, 1919-1920
	10	Commutation of rations, pamphlets
	11	Examination, Quartermaster Loftsmen-in-charge, 1912
	12	Lieutenant, Construction Corps, 1921
	13	Shipbuilding, unidentified
	14	Correspondence Course, incoming letters and instructions, 1922-1924
	15	Outgoing letters and progress reports, 1922-1924
	16	Algebra, assignments 1-8
	17	Assignments 9-13
	18	Assignments 14-18
	19	Exercises 55-64
	21	Exercises
	22	Exercises
	23	Exercises
	24	Exercises and assignment 24
	25	Exercises
	26	Exercises
	27	Exercises
2	1	Exercises
	2	Exercises
	3	Examination
	4	Chemistry, assignments 1-10
	5	Assignments 11, 13, 15-19
	6	Assignments 20-30
	7	Notes
	8	Examination
	9	English
	10	Geometry (elementary), assignment 1-5
	11	(elementary), exercises
	12	Exercises
	13	Exercises
	14	Examination
	15	Physics, Assignments 1-5

- 16 Notebooks, shipbuilding and management
- 17 Accounts, pay slips, 1900-1, 1923
- 18 Travel expenses, reimbursement requests, 1917-1919
- 19 Reimbursements, 1918-1921
- 20 Taxes
- 21 War Risk Insurance
- 22 Leave of absence slips, blank

Personal Papers

- 3
 - 1 Correspondence, family & personal
 - 2 Genealogy
 - 3 Postcards, family
 - 4 Postcards, J.A. Lord Jr.
 - 5 Souvenir booklet of Hawaii, 1902
 - 6 Clubs, Societies, and Organizations
 - 7 Address to the Sons and Daughters of Nathan Lord, 1922
 - 8 Address to the Rotary Club of Portsmouth on *USS Constitution*, 1925
 - 9 Genealogy notes
 - 10 Ephemera
 - 11 Checkbook, 1923-1924

Oversize (in oversize drawer 6)

- Certificate from King Neptune for crossing the equator, *USS Chester*, 1910
- Testimonial for service in World War I, 1920
- Commission, Naval Constructor with the Rank of Lieutenant, 1928

Series II: Naval Shipbuilding

Shipyards

- | Box | Folder | |
|-----|--------|--|
| 3 | 12 | Officer List, Asiatic Fleet, 1903 |
| | 13 | Bath Iron Works, shipbuilding and yard operations, 1917-1920 |
| | 14 | Bath Iron Works, personnel, 1913-1920 |
| | 15 | Shipbuilding Labor Adjustment Board, "Decision as to Wages, Hours, and Other Conditions in Atlantic Coast, Gulf and Great Lakes Shipyards," 1918 |
| | 16 | Portsmouth Navy Yard, regulations, 1921 |
| | 17 | Portsmouth Navy Yard, "Organization Manual for the Industrial Department," 1924 |
| | 18 | Portsmouth Navy Yard, statistics and organization, 1922 and undated |
| | 19 | Portsmouth Navy Yard, shipbuilding and operations, 1920-1921 |
| | 20 | 1922 |
| | 21 | 1923-1925 |
| | 22 | Report on Power Boats, September 1924 |
| | 23 | Personnel, 1921-1925 |
| | 24 | Prosecution of Charles Boothby for stealing tools, 1922 |

- 25 Industrial accounting, cost comparisons, 1921-1924
- 26 US Navy, Wood Construction Division, 1943 and undated
- 27 Trade catalogs: Neptune Launching Grease
Riverside Tire & Auto Supplies
- 28 Miscellaneous shipbuilding material

Vessels

Box	Folder	
4	1	US Navy, <i>USS Boxer</i> (ship, training), 1901
	2	Specifications, 1901
	3	US Navy, destroyers built at Bath Iron Works, 1917-1920
	4	US Navy, 50-foot motor boats, 1921-1922
	5	US Coast Guard, 35-foot picket boats, design and specifications
	6	Construction, correspondence, 1921-1924
	7	US Coast Guard, 75-foot patrol boats, construction, April 24 – June 16, 1924
	8	June 18 – July 17, 1924
	9	July 18 – August 6, 1924
	10	August 7 – September 28, 1924
	11	September 29 – November 24, 1924
	12	December 1, 1924 – April 14, 1925
	13	Inspection and trials, CG-190, CG-191, CG-192

Series III: Printed Material, US Navy

Box	Folder	
4	14	US Navy, General Orders, 1919-1921
	15	Accounting Numbers for Ships and Stations, 1919
	16	Changes in Navy Regulations, 1920-1924 and undated
	17	Uniform Regulations, 1913-1924
	18	Court Martial Orders, July 1920
	19	US Navy, Bureau of Construction and Repair, Annual Reports, 1920, 1924
	20	Circular letters, 1920
5	1	Bulletins, 1921-1925, General Information Series
	2	1921-1924, Confidential Series
	3	Material & Hull Specifications
	4	"Instructions," various topics
	5	US Navy, Bureau of Engineering, "Changes to the Manual of Engineering" #2, #13-15 (1922-1923)
	6	#16-18 (1923)
	7	#21-26 (1923-1924)
	8	#28 (1924)
	9	#3-A, 10-A (1924) and unidentified
	10	Bureau of Navigation, "Changes to the Manual of the Bureau of Navigation," 1922
	11	Bureau of Ships, circular letters, 1942
	12	Proposal for Hull Division Apprentice School, undated

Appendix A
Pamphlets in MS-15

Title	Author	Publication	Box/Folder
[Trade Catalog]	Columbia Bronze Corporation	n.d. [c. 1924]	4/6
Accounting Numbers for Ships and Stations		No. 1 part 2; Washington: GPO, 1918	4/15
Annual Report of the Chief of the Bureau of Construction and Repair	Bureau of Construction and Repair	Washington: GPO, 1920	4/19
Annual Report of the Chief of the Bureau of Construction and Repair	Bureau of Construction and Repair	Washington: GPO, 1924	4/19
<i>Bulletin (Confidential Series)</i>	Bureau of Construction and Repair	Nos. 107, 110, 112, 113, 119 (October 1921-August 1924)	5/2
<i>Bulletin (General Information Series)</i>	Bureau of Construction and Repair	Nos. 15, 17, 19-22, 26 (April 1921-January 1923); Index to issues 1-34, 1924	5/1
Catalogue of Officer's Uniforms and Equipment	Officer's Uniform Shop	Brooklyn, NY: 1922	1/8
Circular Letters	Bureau of Construction and Repair	Washington: GPO, July 1, 1920	4/20
Circular Letters	Bureau of Ships	1942	5/11
Decision as to Wages, Hours and Other Conditions in Atlantic Coast, Gulf and Great Lakes Shipyards	Shipbuilding Labor Adjustment Board	Washington: 1918	3/15
General Instructions for Painting and Cementing Vessels	Bureau of Construction and Repair	Washington: GPO, 1918	5/4
General Specifications for Auxiliary Electric Appliances on Shipboard	Navy Department	July 1, 1921	5/3
Instructions for Installation and Operation of Navy Standard Oil Burning Ranges	Bureau of Construction and Repair	Washington: GPO, 1922	5/4
Instructions for Preparing and Furnishing Plans and Booklets	Bureau of Construction and Repair	Washington: GPO, 1922	5/4
Instructions for Use of Air Purifying Apparatus and of Compressed Air in Submarines	Bureau of Construction and Repair	Washington: GPO, 1922	5/4

Title	Author	Publication	Box/Folder
Neptune Launching Grease	Fiske Bros. Refining Co.	New York: n.d. [c. 1918]	3/27
New and Liberal Features of War Risk Insurance	U.S. Treasury Department	Washington: Bureau of War Risk Insurance, 1920	2/21
Organizational Manual for the Industrial Department	Portsmouth Naval Shipyard	Portsmouth, 1924	3/17
Pay and Allowance Cases	King, William B.	Washington: King & King, n.d. [c. 1920]	1/10
Riverside Tires and Auto Supplies	Montgomery Ward & Co.	New York: 1924	3/27
Souvenir from the Hawaiian Islands		Honolulu: The Island Curio Store, 1902	3/5
Specifications for Method of Numbering Watertight Compartments	Bureau of Construction and Repair	Washington: GPO, 1919	5/3
Steel Castings	Navy Department	Navy Department Specification 49S1c, June 1, 1916	5/3
Supplementary List to the Detail Hull Specifications for Building 110-foot Submarine Chasers	Bureau of Construction and Repair	Washington: GPO, 1918	5/3
Uniforms and Equipment for the Officers of the U.S. Navy	William H. Horstman Company	Philadelphia: n.d. [c. 1923]	1/8

Appendix B Blueprints and Plans in MS-15

75' Patrol Boats, US Coast Guard:

United States Coast Guard:		Date	Box/Folder
90267-X	“Golden Glow Searchlight”	12-22-18	4/6
90522-X	“75' Patrol Boats Details of Ice Sheathing”	12-18-24	4/12
Dodge Manufacturing Corporation:			
K 4888	“2 ¼” self-oiling rigid pillow block with 4 bolt base”	7-26-24	4/9

Items Stored in Plans Collection

USS Boxer:

	Date	Location
“General Arrangement Plans of Brig for US Training Service”	10-11-1901	Misc. Box 1

USS Constitution:

34535	“US Frigate Constitution Midship Section”	1-1926	Right of 101, Shelf C
-------	---	--------	--------------------------